

Trip Report

Sixth Meeting of IUFRO Working Party 7.03.04 Diseases and Insects in Forest Nurseries

September 9-14, 2005
Uherske Hradiste
Czech Republic

I attended the 2005 meeting of IUFRO Working Party 7.03.04 in the Czech Republic. I delivered the introductory paper entitled "Evolution of Our Knowledge of *Fusarium* Diseases in Forest Nurseries." A written paper for the meeting Proceedings is currently in preparation and will be submitted before the end of the year. There were 24 oral presentations given at the meeting, which was attended by 28-30 pathologists and entomologists specializing in pest problems of forest nurseries. There were also four posters presented. Much of the meeting emphasized current important nursery disease problems that occur worldwide, such as those caused by *Fusarium* spp., *Gremmeniella abietina*, *Botrytis cinerea*, *Dothistroma pini* (*Mycosphaerella pini*), *Phytophthora* spp., and soilborne nematodes. Two forest nurseries in the Czech Republic (Kladikov and Budisov) as well as Forestry and Game Management Research Institute were visited. Nursery culture and associated pest problems (diseases, insects, weeds) were discussed at length during the visits. Disease management approaches and potential improvements were discussed with nursery managers. Different perspectives from pest specialists from different countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America helped nursery managers understand alternative approaches to pest management.

The meeting helped promote exchanges of important scientific information relevant to forest nursery pests and their management. It also provided a forum for establishing networks for international cooperation on specific pests of worldwide importance. The framework for future cooperation among scientists with similar pest research priorities was established.

The Working Party normally has meetings every three years. The next meeting will be hosted by Forest Health Protection in the spring of 2008 on the Big Island of Hawaii. I will be in charge of local arrangements and Michelle Cram will be the chairperson of the Working Party for the next meeting. There was a general consensus that the next meeting should be well attended.

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